

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 /070 W

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O R 271458Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2541

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0250

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SL, AO

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE POSITION ON ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER MINAH CONTINUES TO BE STRONG SUPPORTER OF CURRENT MODERATE GOSL POSITION ON ANGOLA BUT ADMITS THAT GOSL POSITION WILL BE REVIEWED AT CABINET MEETING MORNING JANUARY 28. HE UNWILLING TO PREDICT WHICH WAY CABINET WILL DECIDE, BUT HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PREFER THAT GOSL CONSULT WITH ITS ALLIES ON THIS ISSUE BEFORE DECISION IS FINAL. DECISION TO CHANGE, HOWEVER, IS POSSIBLE AND "CONSULTATION" MAY BE NO MORE THAN ADVANCE INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON ANGOLA MORNING JANUARY 27 WITH FONMIN MINAH, THIS BEING FIRST CHANCE SINCE HIS BELATED RETURN LAST WEEK FROM OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING. HE SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST RECOGNITION OF MPLA-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT AS BEING OPPOSED TO OAU PAST PERFORM-  
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ANCE. OTHER ARGUMENTS HE USED WERE - LACK OF LEGITIMACY

OF MPLA, HIS OPPOSITION TO MASSIVE RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, WHICH WAS MUCH MORE PERNICIOUS FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE THAN TOKEN SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT, AND BELIEF THAT SOLUTION FAVORING ONLY ONE PARTY WOULD NOT LEAD TO EVENTUAL END OF FIGHTING. MINAH SAID HE KNEW USG HAD SIMILAR VIEWS BUT HE BELIEVED THAT HIS OWN WERE EVEN STRONGER.

3. I TOLD MINAH THAT USG VIEWS OF SITUATION QUITE SIMILAR TO HIS AND WE HAD BEEN PLEASED AT GOSL POSITION AT ADDIS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, DISQUIETING RUMORS IN TOWN THAT, IN CONTEXT OF GUINEAN, NIGERIAN AND EXPECTED TANZANIAN DELEGATIONS (SEPTTEL, GOSL WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. MINAH SAID THAT ALL ABOVE VISITS HAD BEEN ABOUT ANGOLA, BUT USING ARGUMENTS THAT HE FOUND UNPERSUASIVE. HOWEVER, GOSL CABINET WOULD DEFINITELY DISCUSS ANGOLA AT WEEKLY MEETING JANUARY 28 AT 1100 HOURS LOCAL. HIS VOICE WAS ONLY ONE, AND DECISION IN CABINET, WHICH HE SAID NOW ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED, COULD OVERRIDE THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, MINAH SAID SCHAUFELLE PRE-OAU AFRICAN TRIP HAD CAUSED ILL WILL IN SIERRA LEONE. WORD FROM WASHINGTON THAT SCHAUFELLE WOULD VISIT "FRIENDLY" AFRICAN COUNTRIES MADE GOSL SENSE THAT USG DID NOT CONSIDER

IT AS FRIENDLY. THERE HAD BEEN SOME GUMBLING OVER THE TRIP AND, IF GOSL HAD NOT ALREADY MADE ITS DECISION, THE FAILURE TO VISIT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FACTOR. I TOLD MINAH THAT I WAS SURPRISED AT ABOVE REACTION. SCHAUFELLE HAD ONLY GONE TO FIVE, ALL FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, AND HAD IN NO WAY VISITED ALL "FRIENDLY" COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE HAD NOT VISITED LIBERIA, ZAMBIA, AND KENYA, WHO HAVE HAD POSITION ON THIS SIMILAR TO GOSL. FURTHERMORE, SINCE GOSL HAD ALREADY ARRIVED AT ITS OWN POSITION, SCHAUFELLE VISIT COULD HAVE LED GOSL TO BE ACCUSED OF HAVING BENT TO USG WILL WHICH WAS UNTRUE.

5. MINAH ADMITTED TRUTH IN ABOVE AND SAID THAT OTHER SIDE HAD IN ANY CASE ACCUSED GOSL OF BEING REACTIONARY AND "IN POCKET OF THE WEST," ACCUSATIONS WHICH HE TERMED "RUBBISH." CONFIDENTIAL

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TO THE CONTRARY, IN SPITE OF GOSL MODERATE POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, WESTERN COUNTRIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF FRG, PROVIDED ONLY MINIMAL ASSISTANCE TO SL. EVEN LARGE (\$30 MILLION) PROMISE FROM EEC IS RESULT OF LOME AND WILL GO TO ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL LEANINGS. I REMINDED HIM OF DECISION BY USG TO RESUME BILATERAL AID HERE, AND SAID THAT EXTENT OF FRG AID WAS QUITE LARGE. (COMMENT: NEVERTHELESS, SEEN FROM LOCAIA

POINT OF VIEW, MINAH'S COMMENT HAS SOME VALIDITY, ESPECIALLY GIVEN LARGE AND EFFECTIVE PRC AID ACTIVITIES. END COMMENT.)

6. MINAH AID HE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF MPLA VICTORY FOR SMALL COUNTRIES. IN FUTURE, THERE WOULD BE FEAR THAT USSR AND THEIR "CUBAN PUPPETS" WOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN TRYING TO BACK A MINORITY FACTION WITH ARMS AND MEN TO OVERTHROW LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS. HE COULD NOT SEE HOW FREELY ELECTED AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS COULD IGNORE THAT IMPLICATION.

7. AS MEETING CLOSED, I REITERATED USG VIEW THAT GOSL HOLD FIRM TO ITS PRINCIPLES AND NOT BE SWAYED BY CURRENT PRESSURE. MINAH SAID HE FOR ONE BELIEVED GOSL OWED IT TO HER ALLIES ON THIS MATTER TO CONSULT BEFORE BACKING AWAY.

8. COMMENT. GOSL SWITCH IS CLEARLY POSSIBLE, BUT STRENGTH OF MINAH'S VIEWS ARE HELPFUL. TALK ABOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES MAY BE WISHFUL THINKING. PRESIDENT STEVENS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SL FEBRUARY 1 FOR TWO WEEK STAY IN SWITZERLAND FOR DENTAL REASONS. DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN EITHER BEFORE HE LEAVES OR AFTER HE COMES BACK. HIS ABSENCE, HOWEVER, COUPLED WITH CONSULTATIONS, COULD BE USEFUL REASON FOR DELAY IN RECOGNITION. I SHALL STRESS CONSULTATIONS IN MY CALL 0930 JANUARY 28 ON PRIME MINISTER  
END COMMENT.

SAMUELS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976FREETO00250  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760030-1138  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SIERRA LEONE POSITION ON ANGOLA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SL, AO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006